How to change spark plugs on **BMW E36** – replacement guide

VIDEO TUTORIAL

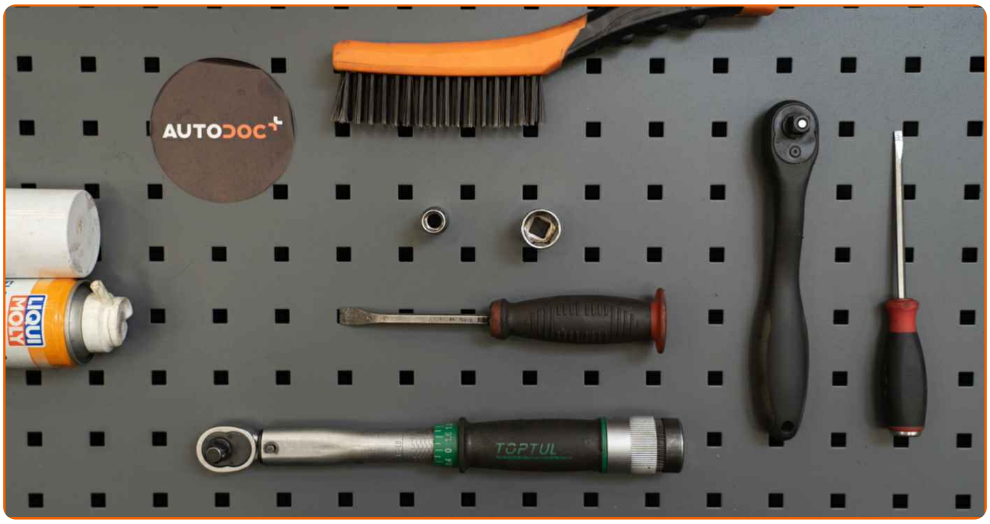


Important!

This replacement procedure can be used for:
BMW 3 Saloon (E30) 316i 1.6, BMW 3 Saloon (E30) 318i 1.8, BMW 3 Saloon (E30) 318is 1.8, BMW 3 Touring (E30) 318i 1.8, BMW 3 Saloon (E36) 316i 1.6, BMW 3 Saloon (E36) 318i 1.8, BMW 3 Saloon (E36) 318is 1.8, BMW 3 Coupe (E36) 318is 1.8, BMW 3 Saloon (E36) 320i 2.0, BMW 3 Coupe (E36) 320i 2.0, BMW 3 Saloon (E36) 325i 2.5, BMW 3 Coupe (E36) 325i 2.5, BMW 3 Touring (E30) 316i 1.6, BMW 5 Saloon (E34) 520i 2.0 24V, BMW 5 Saloon (E34) 525i 2.5 24V, (+ 150)

The steps may slightly vary depending on the car design.

REPLACEMENT: SPARK PLUGS – BMW E36. TOOLS YOU MIGHT NEED:



- Electronic spray
- High-temperature anti-seize lubricant
- Torque wrench
- Drive socket # 10
- Spark plug socket # 16
- Ratchet wrench
- Flat screwdriver
- Crow bar
- Fender cover

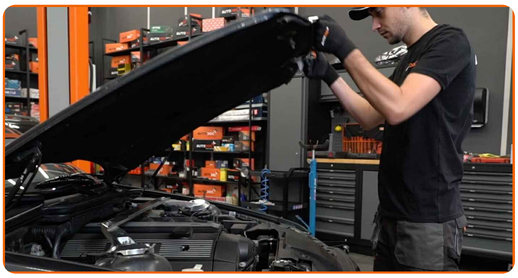
BUY TOOLS

Replacement: spark plugs – BMW E36. AUTODOC experts recommend:

- The replacement procedure is the same for all spark plugs.
- Please note: all work on the car – BMW E36 – should be done with the engine switched off.

CARRY OUT REPLACEMENT IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

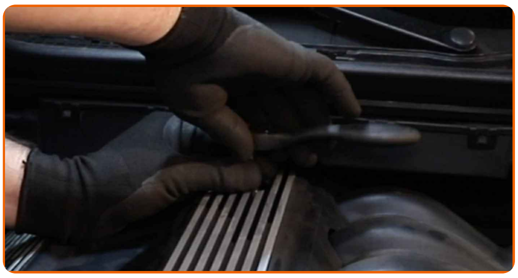
1 Open the hood.



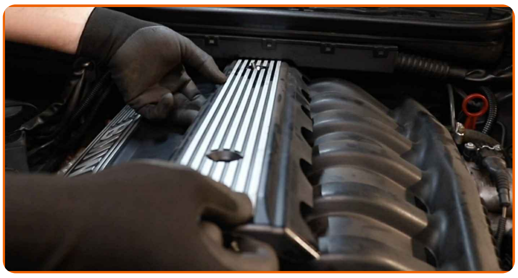
2 Use a fender protection cover to prevent damaging paintwork and plastic parts of the car.



3 Unscrew the engine cover fastener. Use a drive socket #10. Use a ratchet wrench.



4 Remove the engine cover.



AUTODOC recommends:

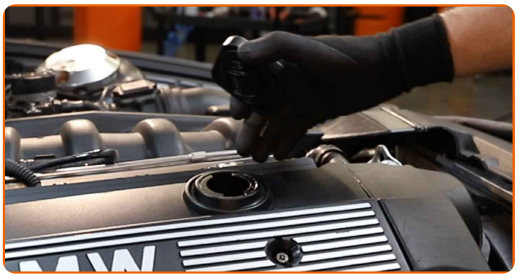
- Replacement: spark plugs – BMW E36. To avoid damaging the part when removing it, do not use excessive force.

5 Unscrew the engine cover fastener. Use a drive socket #10. Use a ratchet wrench. Use a flat screwdriver.



6 Unscrew the oil filler plug.

7 Remove the oil filler cap.



8 Remove the engine cover.



AUTODOC recommends:

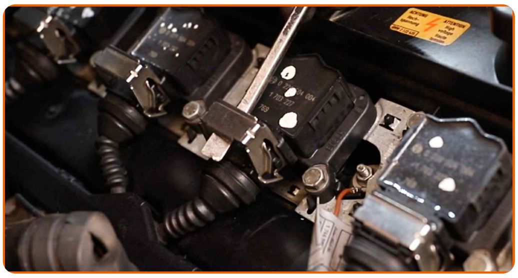
- Replacement: spark plugs – BMW E36. Do not use excessive force when removing the part as this may damage it.

9 Install the oil filler cap.

10 Tighten the oil filler cap.



11 Unplug the connectors from the ignition coils. Use a crowbar.



12

Unscrew the fasteners of the ignition coils. Use a drive socket #10. Use a ratchet wrench.



13

Take out the ignition coils from the spark plug wells.

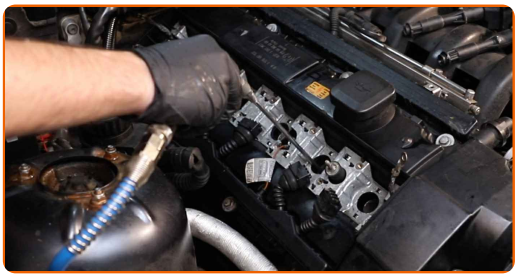


Replacement: spark plugs – BMW E36. Tip from AUTODOC experts:

- Remember the sequence of steps for ignition coil demounting.

14

Clean dirt, dust and debris from inside the spark plug wells.



15

Unscrew the spark plugs. Use the spark plug socket #16. Use a ratchet wrench.



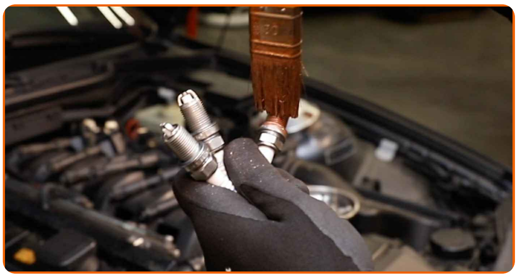
16

Take out the spark plugs.



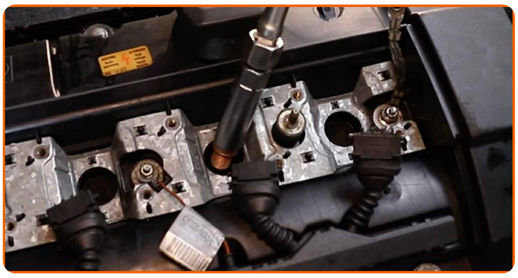
17

Apply a thin layer of a special high temperature anti-seize lubricant to the threads of the new spark plugs.



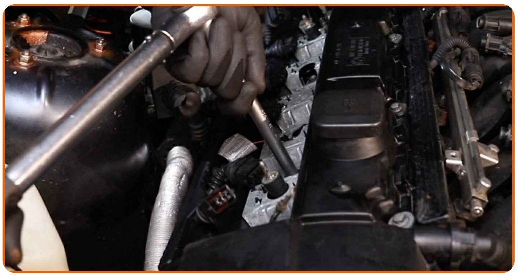
18

Install the new spark plugs into their mounting seats. Use the spark plug socket #16.



19

Screw new spark plugs and tighten them. Use the spark plug socket #16. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 24 nm torque.



Replacement: spark plugs – BMW E36. AUTODOC recommends:

- Don't tighten the plugs with excessive force. Exceeding tightening torque can damage the thread connection.
- Be careful when working with a spark plug wrench. Its skewing can cause damage to the threaded connection.

20

Install the ignition coils to the spark plug wells. Make sure you hear a click indicating that it is locked in place.



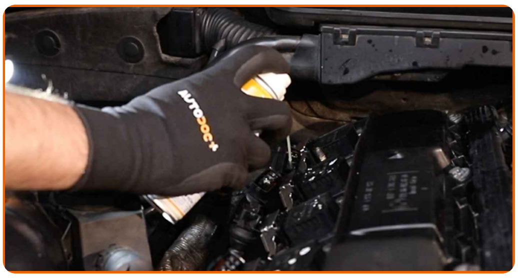
Replacement: spark plugs – BMW E36. AUTODOC experts recommend:

- Follow the installation sequence.

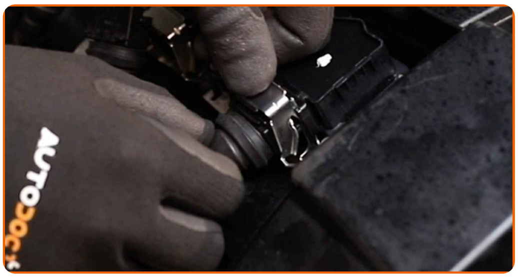
21 Tighten the ignition coil fasteners. Use a drive socket #10. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 7 nm torque.



22 Treat the ignition coil connector with electronic spray.



23 Plug in the connectors of the ignition coils.



24 Unscrew the oil filler plug.



25 Remove the oil filler cap.

26 Install the engine cover and secure it.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Make sure the engine cover is properly seated. It should not be displaced with respect to the guiding fasteners.
- Replacement: spark plugs – BMW E36. To avoid damaging the part during installation, do not use excessive force.

27 Install the oil filler cap.

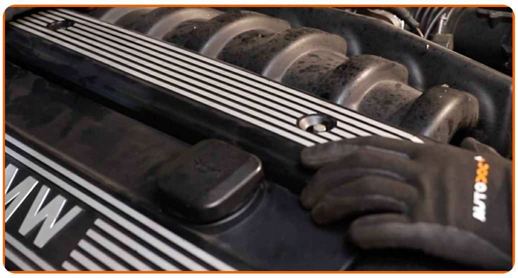
28 Tighten the oil filler cap.



29 Screw in the engine cover fasteners. Use a drive socket #10. Use a ratchet wrench.



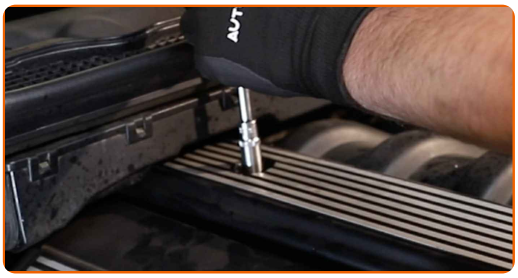
30 Install the engine cover and secure it.



Replacement: spark plugs – BMW E36. AUTODOC experts recommend:

- Make sure the engine cover is properly seated. It should not be displaced with respect to the guiding fasteners.
- When installing, do not use excessive force to avoid damage to the part.

31 Screw in the engine cover fasteners. Use a drive socket #10. Use a ratchet wrench.



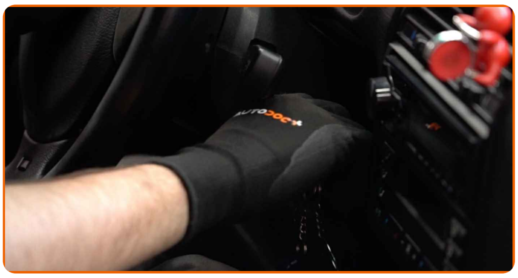
32

Run the engine for a few minutes. This is necessary in order to make sure that the component operates properly.



33

Shut off the engine.



34

Remove the fender protection cover.



35

Close the hood.



WELL DONE!

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